

**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
COUNTY OF YORK, VIRGINIA
REGULAR MEETING
January 25, 2007**

Meeting Convened. A regular meeting of the York County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 25, 2007.

Attendance. The following members of the PRAB were present: Ms. Donna Simkins, Mr. Bart Barton, Mr. Bill Euker, and Mr. James Elder. Staff present was Ms. Cheryl Sonderman, Mr. Brian Fuller and Ms. Amy Parker. Ms. Sharon Kline and Mr. Jack Christie were absent. Mr. Scott Bartram, representing the Historic Triangle Bicycle Advisory Committee and his wife Carol Bartram were also in attendance.

Consideration of Minutes. The minutes of the November 16, 2006 meeting were approved.

Election of Officers. Ms. Donna Simkins was elected Chair and Ms. Sharon Kline was elected Vice-Chair.

Greenways/Bikeways Plan Update. Ms. Amy Parker from the Planning Division briefed the PRAB on the status of the plan and the regional effort to make connections between James City and York Counties and the City of Williamsburg. She asked for the PRAB's recommendation on prioritizing areas of the County for the development of greenways/bikeways. The PRAB recommended the Tabb area as the highest priority and the Dominion Power easement in the Bruton area. Ms. Parker stated that the next step would be to engage in negotiations with several property owners to obtain the easements needed. She also indicated that she would like to attend the March meeting of the PRAB to continue providing status reports on this project.

Status Report on the Dog Park Issue. Mr. Barton distributed a copy of a letter he and Ms. Simkins drafted that will be sent to Mr. Bowman, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors requesting that staff be directed to look into and provide options for locations for dog parks in the County. The PRAB is supportive of providing off-leash areas for dogs and would like the County to pursue development of an area in both the upper and lower County. Ms. Simkins was going to make final revisions to the letter and distribute for comments from the PRAB before sending it to Mr. Bowman.

Review of Operating and Capital Budget Submissions. Ms. Sonderman outlined the changes to the CIP submission for Parks and Recreation. She noted that the Senior Center construction project was moved from FY2009 to FY2011. She also stated that the FY2013 projects for the park land environmental study/site plan design (\$50,000) and the Seaford School/Park Construction project (\$3,000,000) were eliminated. Ms. Sonderman reported that there are budget work sessions scheduled for February 6th and 13th on the New Program and Personnel requests and the CIP. She said she

would keep the PRAB informed of the progress of those budget work sessions. The PRAB would like to communicate their position on the Parks and Recreation budget requests in writing to the Board of Supervisors in February or March.

In response to the issue of using Enterprise Funds for the concessions operations at the athletic field complex that was discussed at the November 2006 meeting, Ms. Sonderman stated that she has discussed this with Sharon Day in Financial and Management Services. Ms. Day said that they are not inclined to use Enterprise Funds for the concession operations initially. However, she felt that if in the future, an Enterprise Fund would be more beneficial to the operation of the complex, then the County could move in that direction.

Athletic Field Complex Update. Ms. Sonderman reported that the project is going to be advertised for bids on February 4th and 11th, with the bids due on March 15th. Once the contract is approved by the Board of Supervisors and fully executed, construction would begin. She estimated that a groundbreaking ceremony would take place in June and that the facility would be open to the public in the spring of 2009.

Ms. Sonderman also said that the County needed to set aside in perpetuity, 29 acres as a wildlife preservation area to mitigate for an area of the project that will be disturbed on the south side of Oriana Road. Once this is completed, final boundary lines will be determined on the property being leased from Newport News Water Works. She also noted that the Board of Supervisors approved condemning the property needed for the access easement off of Rt. 17.

PRAB Webpage and Citizen News Article. Brian Fuller informed the PRAB that their request to have the webpage listed on the same page as other York County Board and Commissions has been taken care of and that he has also updated the Parks and Recreation website to make it easier to find the PRAB webpage.

Ms. Sonderman submitted an article about the PRAB for inclusion in the February edition of the Citizen News. She said that timing was good for an article because it was the 30th anniversary of the PRAB.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.